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(54) **AIR FAIRING FOR FRAMELESS TRAILER**

USPC ..... 296/180.1, 180.4, 180.5  
See application file for complete search history.

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**Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) Provisional application No. 61/870,467, filed on Aug. 27, 2013.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An air fairing device is connected below the bottom a frameless trailer to improve aerodynamic efficiency and improve fuel economy. One embodiment of the air fairing device provides an air deflector positioned forward of a trolley which supports the frameless trailer at a rear end. A second embodiment of the air fairing device provides two deflectors mounted below the frameless trailer. The first deflector is attached and extends downward from an articulating arm, said arm connecting the trailer to a semi-tractor or truck. The second deflector connected to below the bottom of the frameless trailer and positioned rear of the first deflector and forward of the trolley. A third embodiment is similar to the second but further includes a third deflector positioned between two axles of the trolley.

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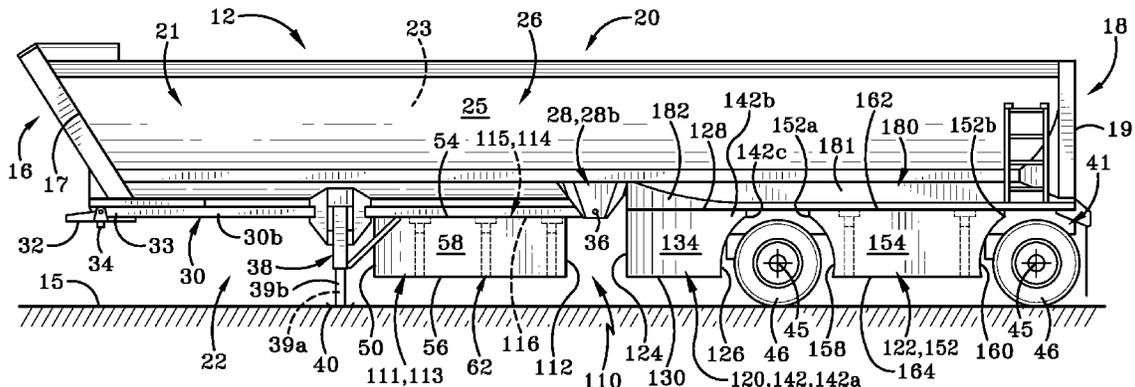
(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ..... **B62D 35/001** (2013.01); **B62D 21/20** (2013.01); **B62D 35/02** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC .... B62D 21/20; B62D 35/001; B62D 35/002;  
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B62D 63/06; B62D 63/068

**12 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets**



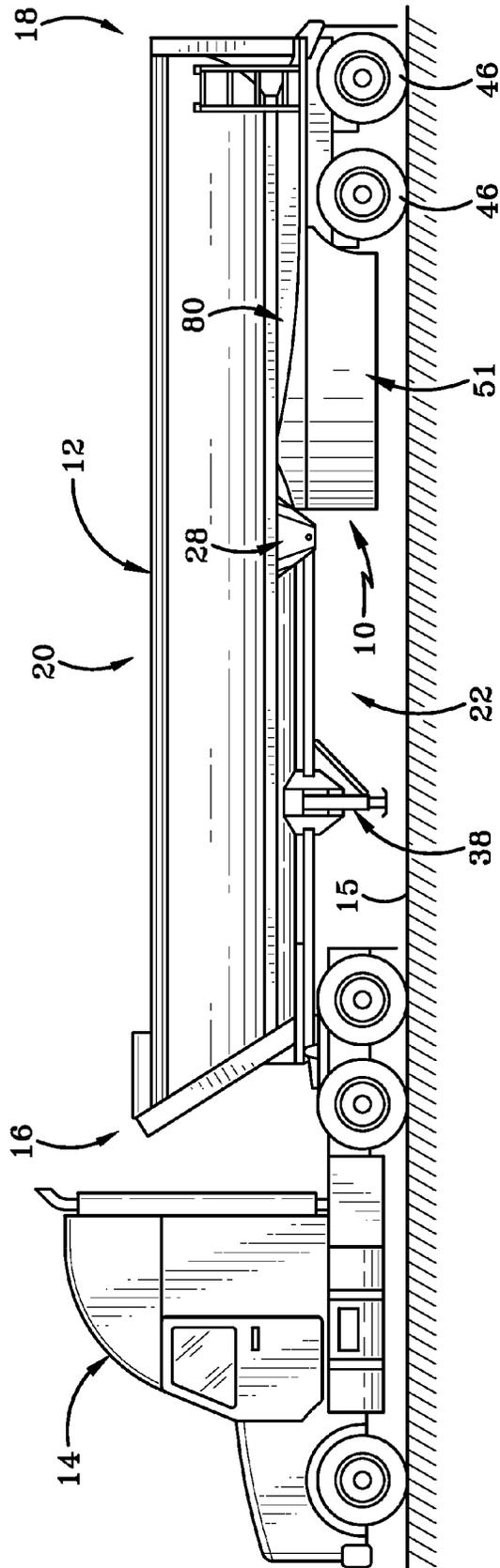
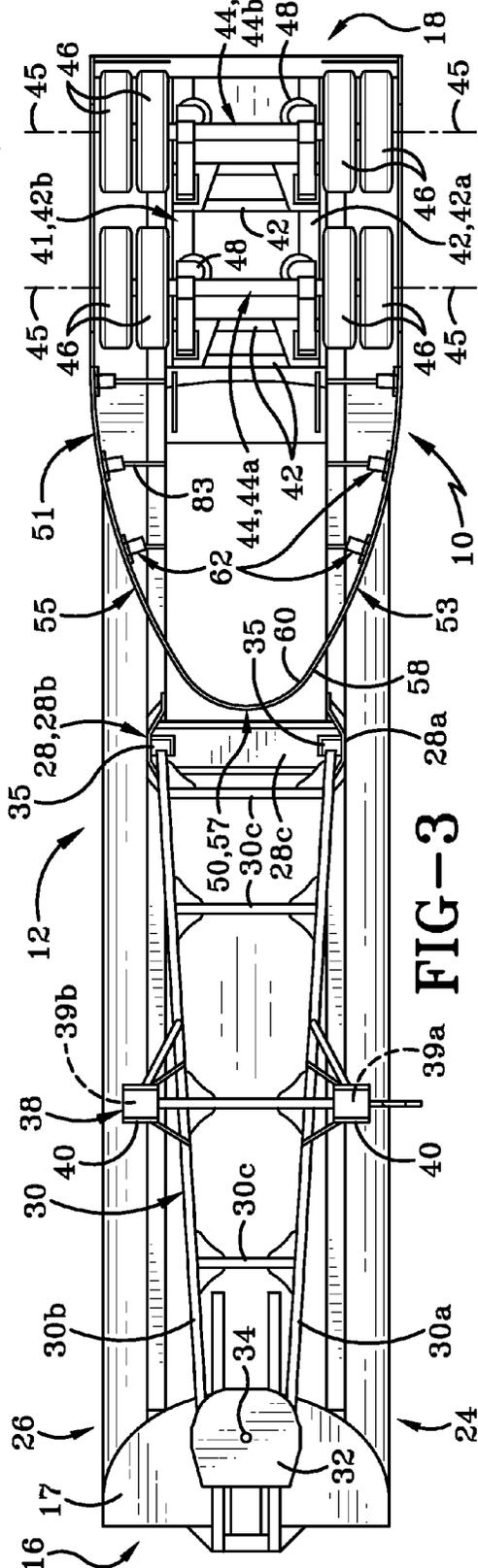
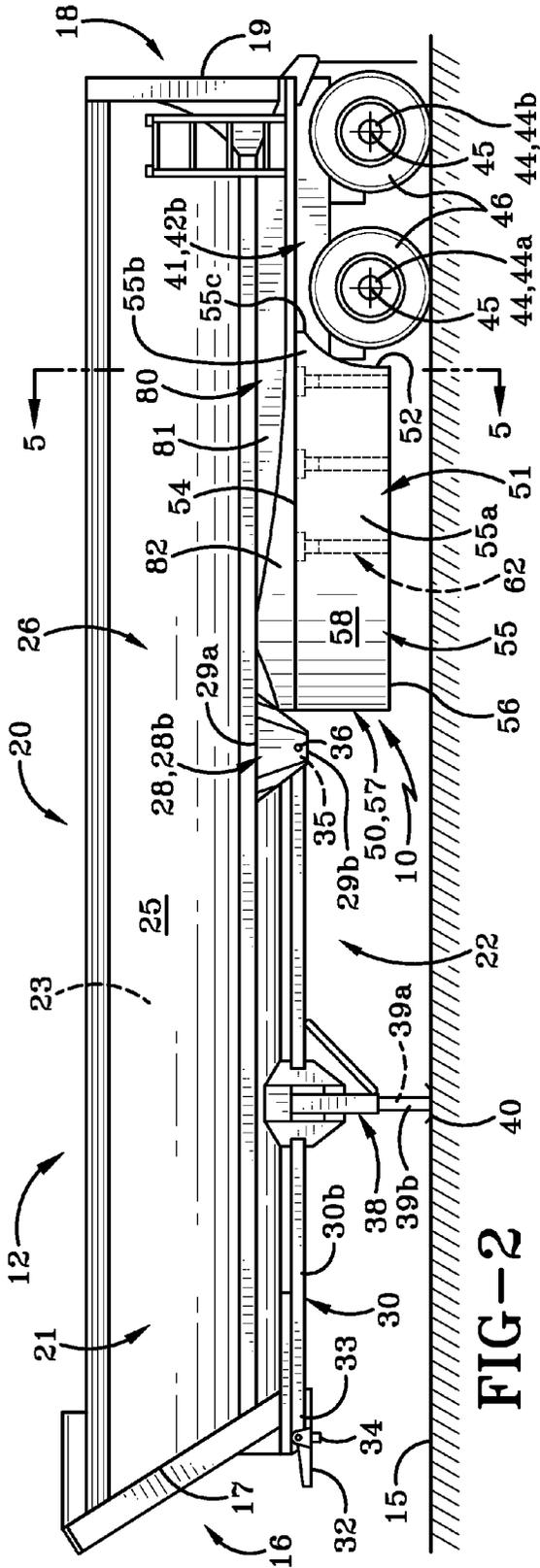


FIG-1



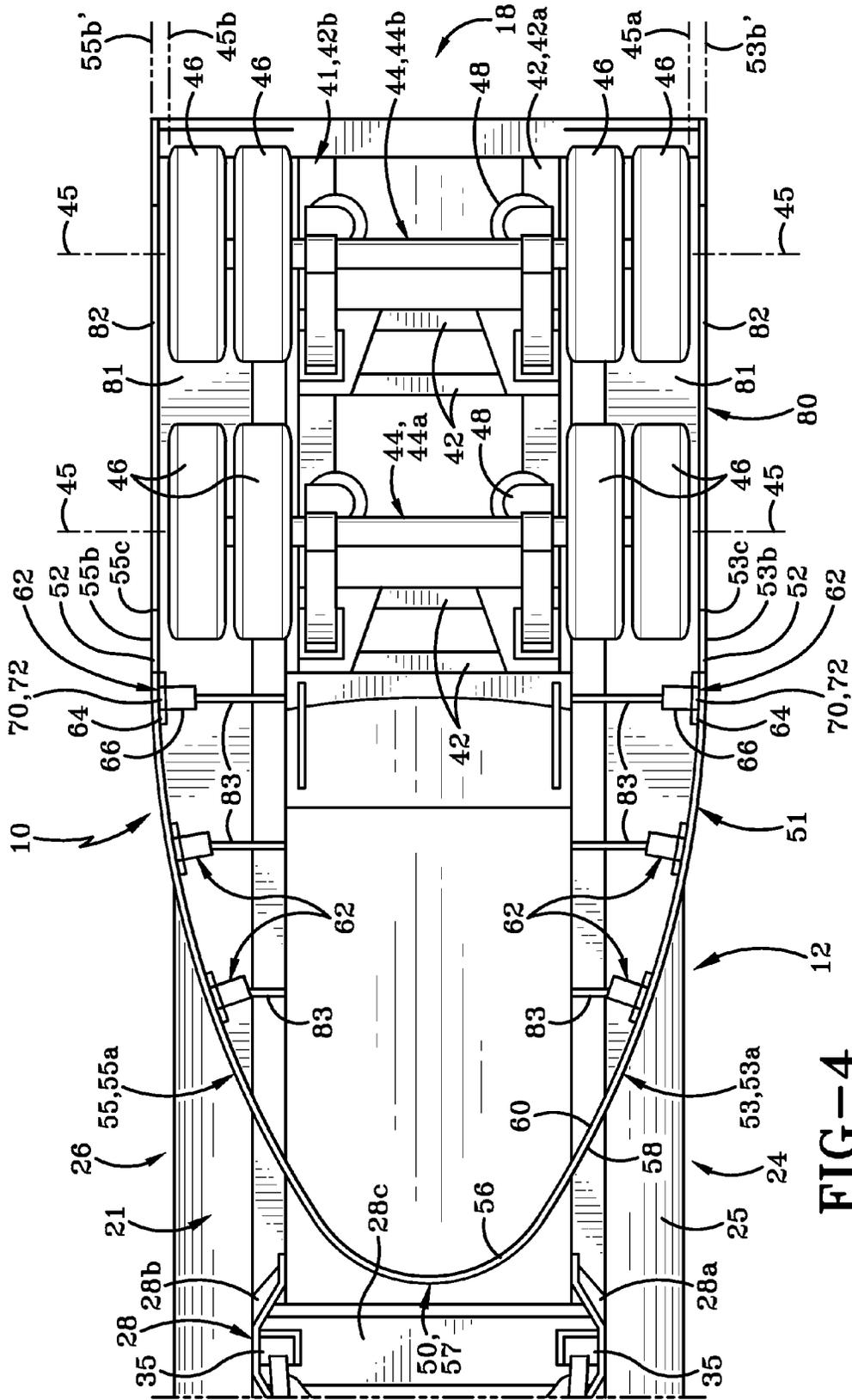


FIG-4







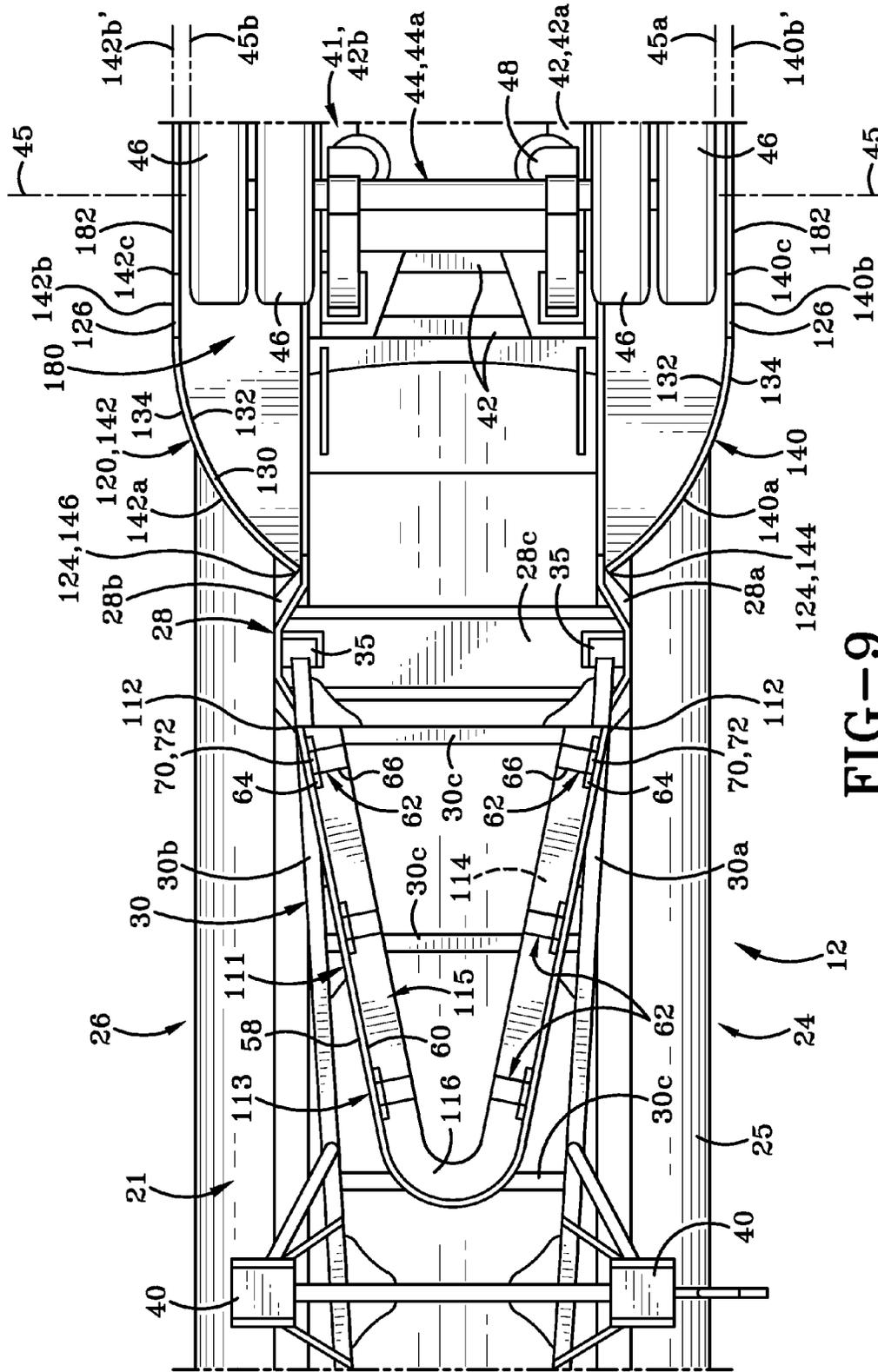


FIG-9

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**AIR FAIRING FOR FRAMELESS TRAILER**

## PRIORITY

This United States utility patent application claims the priority date benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/870,467 filed on Aug. 27, 2013, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference as if fully rewritten herein.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

## 1. Technical Field

The present invention relates generally to systems and devices that increase aerodynamic efficiency. More particularly, the invention relates generally to an air fairing or trailer skirt for trailers. Specifically, the invention relates to an air fairing for a frameless trailer.

## 2. Background Information

Fuel economy in combustion engine vehicles is closely related to aerodynamic efficiency of the vehicle. Aerodynamic efficiency depends on an object's ability to decrease drag forces on the object as the object passes through a flow stream, amongst other things. When drag forces are decreased, fuel efficiency tends to increase.

Road tractors, or conventionally known semi-trucks, are used to pull road trailers on roads to transport cargo. Often times, these trailers are fitted with air fairings to help improve aerodynamic efficiency by reducing drag and thus increasing fuel economy.

Frameless trailers are a type of dump trailer that lacks a frame ordinarily supporting a conventional framed or box dump trailer. The lack of any frame tends to increase fuel efficiency by decreasing weight ordinarily attributed to a frame of a tractor trailer. The lack of a frame also reduces drag by decreasing the size of the aerodynamic profile of the frameless trailer.

A need continues to exist to improve the aerodynamic efficiency of a frameless dump trailer. Further, a need continues to exist for improving the fuel efficiency of a truck having a combustion engine. The present invention addresses these and other issues.

## SUMMARY

In one aspect, an embodiment of the invention may provide an aerodynamic device operatively connected to a frameless trailer, wherein when viewed from a side the frameless trailer has a top and bottom defining therebetween a vertical direction, a forward end and a rear end defining a longitudinal direction therebetween, and when viewed from the bottom left and right sides defining therebetween an axial direction, said device comprising: an air fairing sidewall extending vertically below an outer surface of the frameless trailer and positioned forward of a trailer trolley adapted to support the frameless trailer.

Another aspect of an embodiment may provide a trailer comprising: a trailer body defining an interior cargo chamber having a bottom; a first set of rear ground-engaging wheels rotatably mounted under the bottom of the trailer body; an air fairing comprising a sidewall positioned forward of the first set of wheels and extending downwardly lower than the bottom of the trailer body, and is U-shaped as viewed from below; wherein the sidewall comprises an apex segment defining a front of the sidewall, a left segment extending rearwardly and to the left from the apex segment; and a right segment which extends rearwardly and to the right from the apex segment; the apex segment has a forward facing front

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surface, a rearward facing rear surface, and a downwardly facing bottom terminal edge which extends substantially parallel to the ground from the front surface to the rear surface and is adjacent the front of the sidewall.

In another aspect, an embodiment of the invention may provide in combination, a truck, a frameless trailer positioned atop of a trolley, and an air fairing positioned below the frameless trailer and behind the truck, wherein the air fairing comprises at least one fairing sidewall curving outward from a leading edge and extending front to back to a rear edge.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

Preferred embodiments of the invention, illustrative of the best mode in which Applicant contemplates applying the principles, are set forth in the following description and are shown in the drawings and are particularly and distinctly pointed out and set forth in the appended claims.

FIG. 1 is a diagrammatic view of an aerodynamic air fairing device mounted to and extending below a trailer being towed by a truck;

FIG. 2 is a side elevation view of a first embodiment of the present invention depicting a frameless trailer having one air fairing device connected thereto;

FIG. 3 is a bottom view of the first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged bottom view of the first embodiment of the present invention depicting the air fairing device positioned forward of a trolley;

FIG. 5 is a forward facing cross section view taken along line 5-5 in FIG. 2;

FIG. 6 is a side elevation view of a second embodiment of the present invention depicting a frameless trailer having a three air fairing devices extending below the bottom of the frameless trailer;

FIG. 7 is a bottom view of the second embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 8 is an enlarged partial bottom view of the second embodiment of the present invention depicting one air fairing device positioned forward of a trolley and another air fairing device positioned between the two axles of the trolley; and

FIG. 9 is an enlarged partial bottom view of the second embodiment depicting one air fairing device mounted to an articulating arm and positioned forward of the other two air fairing devices.

Similar numbers refer to similar parts throughout the drawings.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

With primary reference to FIGS. 1-2, an aerodynamic device has an air fairing 10 connected to a frameless trailer 12 for towing behind a semi-tractor or truck 14. The frameless trailer 12 has a first or forward end 16 and a second or rear end 18 defining a longitudinal direction therebetween. Frameless trailer 12 has a top side 20 and a bottom side 22 that define a vertical direction therebetween. When viewed from the bottom, as depicted in FIG. 3, frameless trailer 12 has a first or left side 24 and a second or right side 26 that therebetween define an axial direction.

As depicted in FIG. 2, frameless trailer 12 includes a front panel 17 defining the forward end 16, a rear panel 19 defining the rear end 18, a body panel or panels 21 defining the top and bottom, 20, 22, and defining the left and right sides 24, 26, a connection member or pivot mount 28, an articulating or lift arm 30, a hitch plate 32, a hitch pin 34, a pivot pin 36, landing

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gear **38**, and feet **40**. Front panel **17** is positioned generally upright, yet other angled position, such as the sloped position depicted in FIG. 2 is possible. Rear panel **19** is generally vertical and positioned rearwardly of front panel **17**. Body panel **21** extends between front panel **17** and rear panel **19**. Body panel **21** may have left and right panels or be configured as a single panel having a rounded bottom defining the left and right sides, **24**, **26**, as depicted in FIG. 2. Body panel **21** has an inner surface **23** and an outer surface **25**. Inner surface **23** at bottom **22** of trailer **12** is substantially enclosed to retain the contents within the trailer **12**. The top **20** may be open or enclosed depending upon the type of material being transported. For example, raw bulk materials such as coal may be transported with a frameless trailer **12** having an open top **20** so a loader may easily load and unload the raw materials. Alternatively, liquid such as fuel would need to be transported in a container having an enclosed top.

Connection member **28** is positioned approximately longitudinally halfway between the front end **16** and rear end **18** proximate to bottom **22** of the frameless trailer **12**. The connection member **28** has a top end **29a** and a bottom end **29b**. Preferably, the top **29a** of the connection member **28** is adjacent the bottom **22** of the frameless trailer **12** and bottom **29b** extends vertically below surface **25** of body **21**. The bottom **29b** of the connection member **28** receives articulating arm **30** connected by pivot pin **36**. In the preferred embodiment, two connection members **28a**, **28b** engage the frameless trailer **12** on each side **24**, **26** adjacent bottom **22** (FIG. 3). Connection member **28a**, **28b** may be connected to each other by a support member **28c** (FIG. 3).

As depicted in FIG. 3, articulating arm **30** having a front end **33** and a rear end **35** is disposed vertically below the frameless trailer **12**. Adjacent the front end **33** of the articulating arm **30** is the hitch plate **32** which preferably connects to a trailer seat located on the semi-trailer truck **14**. The hitch plate **32** comprises a male insert or hitch pin **34** extending downward from adjacent the radial center of a terminal plate. The hitch plate **32** engages the terminal seat of a semi-trailer truck **14** via hitch pin **34** when the frameless tractor is selectively attached, as depicted in FIG. 1. Hitch plate **32** may be secured in a conventionally known manner, such as a lock, to ensure the frameless trailer **12** is properly secured to the semi-trailer truck **14** when being hauled. In the preferred embodiment, articulating arm has a generally "A-shaped" design. Articulating arm **30** includes two articulating arm members **30a**, **30b** connecting at their respective forward ends. Each articulating arm member **30a**, **30b** extends rearwardly from the forward connection. Preferably, members **30a**, **30b** defines an inner hollow space to reduces the weight of the members **30a**, **30b**. Although this shape is preferred, other configurations such as solid arms or I-beams are contemplated. The rear end of the articulating arm members **30a**, **30b** defines an aperture that receives the pivot pin **36** to pivotably connect to the connection member **28**. The pivotable connection of the articulating arm **30** and connection member **28** permits the pivotable rotation of the frameless trailer **12**. Preferably, the first articulating arm **30a** is pivotably connected to the first connection member **28a**. The second articulating arm **30b** is pivotably connected to the second connection member **30b**. At least one support member **30c** may extend axially between the articulating arm members **30a**, **30b**. In the preferred embodiment, a plurality first support members **30c** connects to the first articulating arm **30a** and the second articulating arm **30b**.

With continued reference to FIG. 2 and FIG. 3, landing gear **38** extends outwardly in a downward direction from the articulating arm **30** when viewed from the side. Landing gear

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**38** includes a pair of legs **39a**, **39b** having feet **40** and may contain stand support members. The preferred embodiment of the present invention provides landing gear **38** receiving legs **39a**, **39b**, each having a foot **40**. The first and second legs **39a**, **39b** are spaced apart and generally parallel elongated members. Preferably, foot **40** adapted engages the ground surface **15** when frameless trailer **12** is disconnected from the semi-trailer truck **14** in an unattached position shown in FIG. 2. When the frameless trailer **12** is connected to the semi-trailer truck **14**, as seen in FIG. 1, the legs **39a**, **39b** and feet **40** do not engage the ground surface **15**. Some embodiments may provide retractable or telescoping legs, where as other embodiments may provide pivoting legs. However, any conventionally acceptable adaptations of ensuring the legs **39a**, **39b**, and feet **40** are not touching the ground surface **15** when the frameless trailer **12** is connected to the semi-trailer truck **14** are contemplated.

A trailer trolley or dolly **41** is positioned adjacent the rear **18** of the frameless trailer **12**. Trolley **41** attaches and supports frameless trailer **12** from below. Trolley **41** preferably comprises at least one trolley support member **42**, at least one axle **44**, at least two ground engaging tires or wheels **46**, and a suspension system **48**. The preferred embodiment provides a trolley first support member **42a** and a trolley second support member **42b**. The trolley first and second support members **42a**, **42b** are spaced apart and generally parallel oriented in the longitudinal direction. The trolley support members **42a**, **42b** support the weight of the frameless trailer **12**. Preferably, a first axle **44a** and a second axle **44b** operatively engage the trolley first **42a** and second support members **42b**. Generally, the axles **44a**, **44b** extend axially and orthogonal to the trolley support members **42a**, **42b**. The first axle **44a** is positioned forwardly of the second axle **44b**. The axles **44a**, **44b** provide a rotational axis **45** about which the tires rotate. At least two tires **46** are operatively connected to the axle **44**. The preferred embodiment provides eight wheels and tires, however other configurations are contemplated. Suspension system **48** is operatively connecting to support members **42a**, **42b**. A plurality of additional conventional components ordinarily associated with operatively connected a tire to an axle, such as hubs, brakes, hydraulic lines, shock absorbers (shown as part of suspension system **48**), air compression lines, struts (shown as part of suspension system **48**), and the like, are contemplated. Further, the trolley **41** may have a plurality of conventional components connected to the trolleys, such as mud flaps, tail lights, license plate brackets, and the like.

Wind or air fairing device **10** includes a sidewall or air deflector **51** and a mounting member **80**. Deflector **51** has a leading edge **50**, a rear edge **52**, a top edge **54**, and a bottom edge **56**. Deflector **51** has an inwardly facing inner surface **60** when viewed from below and outwardly facing an outer surface **58** when viewed from below (FIG. 3). Deflector **51** includes a first or left fairing wall or segment **53** and a second or right fairing wall or segment **55** (FIGS. 3-4). Deflector **51** is attached to and supported by a plurality of mounting braces **62** positioned closely adjacent the inner surface **60** below the frameless trailer **12**.

When viewing device **10** from the side (FIG. 2), leading edge **50** extends vertically below the bottom **22** of trailer **12**. Edge **50** is positioned forward of rear edge **52**. Rear edge **52** extends arcuately defining an arcuate or curvilinear tire recess adapted to adjacently receive tire **46**. Top edge **54** extends longitudinally between leading and rear edges **50**, **52**. Bottom edge **56** is positioned below top edge **54** and extends longitudinally between leading and rear edges **50**, **52** and is gen-

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erally parallel with top edge 54. Bottom edge extends below the radially centered axis 45 of axle 44. Bottom edge 56 does not contact ground 15.

An apex segment 57 is axially centered below trailer 12. When viewed from the bottom as depicted in FIGS. 3-4, first fairing segment 53 extends rearwardly from apex 57 in a curve 53a axially outward towards left side 24, therefrom extending to a substantially planar segment 53b to a terminal end 53c. Planar segment 53b is co-planar with planar with 53b' positioned axially beyond an imaginary tire outer surface first plane 45a. First fairing segment 53 terminates 53c and does not extend past or rear of first axle 44a. Second fairing segment 55 extends similarly but opposite of first fairing segment 53 rearwardly from apex 57 axially outward curved 55a towards right side 26, therefrom extending substantially planar 55b to a terminal end 55c. Planar segment 55b is co-planar with planar with 55b' positioned axially beyond an imaginary tire outer surface second plane 45b. Second fairing segment 55 terminates 55c does not extend beyond or rearward of first axle 44a. Further, inner surface 60 of deflector 51

defines a cavity which may retain a pocket of air as trailer 12 is towed forward. Bottom edge 56 defines an entrance opening to the cavity. When viewed from a forward facing cross section, as depicted in FIG. 5, device 10 includes mounting member 80 connecting deflector 51 to trailer 12. Member 80 includes a tapered top segment 81, a vertical end segment 82, and a plurality of axially extending support ribs 83. Member 80 connects to bottom 22 of trailer 12 extending downward along tapered segment 81 towards end 82, preferably at a tapered angle. End 82 of member 80 connects with top edge 54 of deflector 51. Support ribs 83 extend axially inward from end 82 below segment 81. Ribs 83 are connected to segment 81. Member 80 may be affixed to trailer 12 and deflector 51 in conventionally known ways as understood in the art such as welding or riveting.

Looking further to FIGS. 4-5, mounting brace 62 is positioned inwardly of inner surface 60 and includes a mounting plate 64, a lobe 66, a support pin member 68, a flex member 70, a first end 71 of flex member 70, and a terminal end 72 of flex member 70. Mounting plate 64 is connected to deflector 51 and extends inwardly beyond inner surface 60. Preferably, mounting plate 64 is connected adjacent top edge 54, however other positions where plate 64 extends inwardly beyond inner surface 60 are contemplated. Lobe 66 is closely adjacent mounting plate 64 extending inwardly beyond plate 64. Lobe 66 receives support pin 68 through an aperture formed in lobe 66.

Flex member 70 is an elongated member extending between first and terminal ends, 71, 72. First end 71 connects to lobe 66 via pin 68 extending through aligned first end 71 and aperture in lobe 66. Member 70 extends downwardly to terminal end 72 connecting deflector 51 adjacent bottom edge 56. FIG. 5 depicts a configuration having six flex members 70, however other multiples are contemplated.

Referring generally to FIGS. 6-9, a second embodiment of wind fairing device is shown generally as 110. Similar to the first embodiment of device 10, device 110 has a forward deflector 111 extending downward below bottom 22 of trailer 12. Forward deflector 111 includes a vertical sidewall 113 and a top wall 115. Sidewall 113 connects to top wall 115 and extends generally vertically downward therefrom. Top wall 115 includes an upwardly facing first or top surface 114 and a downwardly facing second or bottom surface 116. Top wall 115 is axially planar extending longitudinally and connects to the bottom side of articulating arm 30 along top surface 114. Top surface 114 may attach to either one of members 30a, 30b

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or cross member 30c, or all three. Top wall 115 is below articulating arm and positioned forward of connection member 28 when viewed from the side. A rear vertical edge 112 terminates deflector 111 forward of connection member 28.

Second embodiment 110 further includes a separate second sidewall or deflector 120 and a third sidewall or deflector 122 when viewed from the side as depicted in FIG. 6. It is to be understood that while referring to the second and third walls 120, 122 when viewed from the side, that all components of second and third walls 120, 122 are mirrored on each left and right side 24, 26 as depicted from the bottom view of FIG. 7. Deflector 120 has a leading edge 124, a rear edge 126, a top edge 128, and a bottom edge 130. Deflector 120 has an inwardly facing inner surface 132 when viewed from below and outwardly facing an outer surface 134 when viewed from below. Deflector 120 may be mounted closely adjacently below the frameless trailer container by a plurality of mounting braces 62. Leading edge 124 is vertical extending below the bottom 22 of trailer 12. Edge 124 is positioned forward of rear edge 126. Rear edge 126 extends arcuately defining an arcuate or curvilinear tire recess adapted to adjacently receive tire 46. Top edge 128 extends longitudinally between leading and rear edges 124, 126. Bottom edge 130 is positioned below top edge 128 and extends longitudinally between leading and rear edges 124, 126 and is generally parallel with top edge 128. Bottom edge 130 extends below the radially centered axis 45 of axle 44. Bottom edge 130 does not contact ground 15.

Deflector 122 has a leading edge 158, a rear edge 160, a top edge 162, and a bottom edge 164. Deflector 122 has an inwardly facing inner surface 156 when viewed from below and outwardly facing an outer surface 154 when viewed from below. Deflector 122 may be mounted closely adjacently below the frameless trailer container by a plurality of mounting braces 62 behind first axle 44a and forward of second axle 44b. Leading edge 158 extends arcuately defining an arcuate or curvilinear tire recess adapted to adjacently receive tire 46. Edge 158 is positioned forward of rear edge 160. Rear edge 160 extends arcuately defining an arcuate or curvilinear tire recess adapted to adjacently receive tire 46. Top edge 162 extends longitudinally between leading and rear edges 158, 160. Bottom edge 162 is positioned below top edge 160 and extends longitudinally between leading and rear edges 158, 160 and is generally parallel with top edge 162. Bottom edge 162 extends below the radial center 45 of axle 44. Bottom edge 164 does not contact ground 15.

When viewed from the bottom as depicted in FIGS. 8-9, second deflector 120 includes a first fairing member 140 and a second fairing member 142. First fairing member 140 extends rearwardly from a connection 144 with connection member 28. Connection 144 is shown as located towards the rear end of member 28a, however other connection locations below the bottom 22 of trailer 12 are contemplated. Member 140 extends from connection 144 in a curve 140a axially outward towards a planar segment 140b adjacent left side 24. Segment 140b is coplanar with plane 150'. Plane 150' is positioned axially outward or beyond first tire plane 45a. First fairing member 140 terminates 140c and does not extend past or rear of first axle 44a.

Second fairing member 142 extends similarly but opposite of first fairing member 140 rearwardly from connection 146 connected to member 28b. Connection 144 is shown as located towards the rear end of member 28b, however other connection locations below the bottom 22 of trailer 12 are contemplated. Member 142 extends from connection 144 axially outwardly curved 142a towards a planar segment 142b adjacent right side 26. Segment 142b is coplanar with

plane 152'. Plane 152' is positioned axially outward or beyond second tire plane 45b. Second fairing member 142 terminates 142c and does not extend beyond or rearward of first axle 44a. Support ribs 183 may be connected to deflector 120 and extend axially inward from an inner surface of sidewall 22.

Third deflector 122 includes a first fairing member 150 and a second fairing member 152. Third deflector first fairing member 150 is positioned adjacent left side 24, co-planar with plane 150', outside imaginary tire outer surface first plane 45a extending longitudinally from first to second end, 150a, 150b, respectively. First member 150 is positioned rear of first axle 44a and forward of axle 44b. Second fairing member 152 is positioned adjacent right side 26, co-planar with 152', outside imaginary tire outer surface second plane 45b extending longitudinally from first to second end, 152a, 152b, respectively. Second deflector member 152 is positioned rear of first axle 44a and forward of axle 44b. Support ribs 183 may be connected to sidewall 124 and extend axially inward from an inner surface of deflector 122.

As shown in FIG. 7, the outer surfaces 58, 134, 154 of the respective deflectors 111, 120, 122 extend in smooth manner along extends along the same imaginary smooth pathway. The smooth pathway is effective in reducing drag as air flows around deflectors 111, 120, 122. Although the imaginary pathway is not physically continuous or connected, the imaginary plane connecting two deflectors, for example the gap extending between deflector 111 and deflector 120, would create a smooth line when viewed from below.

Second embodiment of wind faring device 110 further includes a mounting member 180 connecting deflectors 120, 122 to trailer 12. Member 180 includes a tapered top segment 181, a vertical end segment 182, and a plurality of axially extending support ribs. Member 180 connects to bottom 22 of trailer 12 extending downward along tapered segment 181 towards an end 182, preferably at a tapered angle. End 182 of member 180 connects with top edge 128 of deflector 120 and top edge 162 of deflector 122. Support ribs may extend axially inward from end 182 below segment 181. Ribs may be connected to segment 181.

Member 180 may be affixed to trailer 12 and deflector 51 in conventionally known ways as understood in the art such as welding or riveting.

In operation, the embodiments of the present invention work to increase fuel efficiency, decrease the effect of drag forces, and provide more control for a driver as truck 14 tows frameless trailer 12 having device 10 or 110. Trailer 12 having device 10 or 110 preferably begins in a grounded position with the landing gear 38 engaging ground 15 (FIG. 2 and FIG. 6). Trailer 12 is then loaded with material that needs to be transported, such as dirt, gravel, or other bulk materials. Truck 14 is positioned to engage and connect with plate 32 and hitch 34. Once engaged, landing gear is raised to an ungrounded position (FIG. 1). Truck 14 tows trailer 12 in a direction causing device 10, which is attached to trailer 12, to advance forward through an airstream opposition the airstream flow path. The reduction of drag increases fuel efficiency for the semi-trailer truck 14 as it moves forward through an airstream along a direction opposite to a direction of air travel. The curvature of the sidewalls of device 10 or 110 permits an efficient aerodynamic profile as device 10 or 110 advances against the path of air travel. Flex member 70 operates to support side wall 21. Member 70 acts as a spring mechanism to provide a force source pushing outwardly from the inner surface 60 against sidewall 21 to counteract forces generated by wind as truck 14 moves forward with the trailer 12 in tow.

Throughout this specification the term "frameless trailer" is used and refers to a dump trailer that lacks a frame ordinarily supporting a dump trailer. The frameless trailer 12 is supported by the body panels that comprise the trailer 12. The lack of any frame increases fuel efficiency by decreasing weight ordinarily attributed to a frame of a tractor trailer. The lack of a frame also reduces drag by decreasing the size of the aerodynamic profile of the frameless trailer. One exemplary frameless dump trailer is commercially known as the AR 450 SCRAPMAC manufactured and sold by MAC Trailer of 14599 Commerce Street in the Town of Alliance, State of Ohio.

Alternative configurations of the frameless trailer are contemplated within these described embodiments. Preferably, a body panel extends between front and rear ends, however a bottom panel may connect adjacent to the bottom of a left and right panel. However, alternate configurations as would ordinarily be understood in the art such as side panels being rounded and connected to each other to form a rounded bottom edge, or an inverted cone shape, are contemplated.

In the foregoing description, certain terms have been used for brevity, clearness, and understanding. No unnecessary limitations are to be implied therefrom beyond the requirement of the prior art because such terms are used for descriptive purposes and are intended to be broadly construed.

Moreover, the description and illustration of the preferred embodiment of the invention are an example and the invention is not limited to the exact details shown or described.

The invention claimed is:

1. An aerodynamic trailer device comprising:
  - a frameless trailer having a top and a bottom, a forward end and a rear end, a left side and a right side, said frameless trailer having an inner and outer surface;
  - a frameless trailer trolley adjacent the rear end of the frameless trailer having at least two ground-engaging wheels connected to an axle and adapted to support the frameless trailer;
  - an air fairing having a first air deflector extending vertically below the outer surface of the frameless trailer and positioned forward of the trailer trolley;
  - a second air deflector extending vertically below the outer surface of the frameless trailer and mounted rearwardly from the first air deflector; and
 wherein the second deflector includes:
  - a left fairing member extending rearwardly from a connection member curving outward towards the left side and terminating forward of the axle; and
  - a right fairing member extending rearwardly from a second connection member curving outward towards the right side and terminating forward of the axle.
2. The aerodynamic device of claim 1, wherein the second deflector comprises:
  - a first planar segment extending outward beyond an outermost surface of a first tire; and
  - a second planar segment extending outward beyond an outermost surface of a second tire.
3. The aerodynamic trailer device of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a third air deflector extending vertically below the outer surface of the frameless trailer and mounted rearwardly of the first and second deflectors.
4. The aerodynamic trailer device of claim 3, wherein the third air deflector is mounted rearwardly of at least one axle, and the third air deflector is connected to the trolley.
5. The aerodynamic trailer device of claim 1, further comprising:

an articulating arm connected to and positioned below the frameless trailer; and wherein the first air deflector is connected to the articulating arm.

6. The aerodynamic device of claim 1, further comprising: a flex member attached to an inner surface of the first air deflector and adapted to push the deflector outwards to counteract forces generated by wind as a truck moves forward with the frameless trailer in tow.

7. The aerodynamic device of claim 1, wherein the first air deflector comprises:  
 an apex segment;  
 a first fairing member extending rearwardly from the apex segment curving outward towards the left side and ending forwardly of the axle; and  
 a second fairing member extending rearwardly from the apex segment curving outward towards the right side and ending forwardly of the axle.

8. The aerodynamic device of claim 1, wherein the second air deflector comprises:  
 a first planar segment extending farther outwards than the outermost portion of a first tire; and  
 a second planar segment extending farther outwards than the outermost portion of a second tire.

9. The aerodynamic device of claim 1, further comprising: a tapered segment of a mounting member extending downwardly and outwardly from the outer surface adjacent the bottom of the frameless trailer, connected to the top of the second air deflector, and adapted to move air around the deflector as the frameless trailer is pulled.

10. The aerodynamic device of claim 1, wherein the second air deflector comprises:  
 a bottom edge positioned below a radial center of the axle;  
 and  
 wherein said bottom edge is generally horizontal relative to the ground.

11. The aerodynamic device of claim 1, further comprising:  
 a third air deflector mounted rearwardly of the first and second deflectors, wherein the outer surface of the third air deflector extends along a same imaginary smooth pathway as the first and second deflectors.

12. The aerodynamic device of claim 11, wherein the first air deflector is positioned forwardly of the longitudinal center of the trailer; and  
 wherein the second and third air deflectors are positioned rearwardly of the longitudinal center of the trailer.

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